

House Resolution 488

By: Representatives Keen of the 179th and Richardson of the 19th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Education Funding Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Constitution provides that the provision of an adequate public
3 education for the citizens shall be a primary obligation of the State of Georgia and that public
4 education prior to the college or postsecondary level shall be free and shall be provided for
5 by taxation; and

6 WHEREAS, the Constitution currently provides for local property taxation as a principal
7 source of education funding; and

8 WHEREAS, there have been introduced in the General Assembly proposals to amend the
9 Constitution to eliminate the requirement of local funding of education by ad valorem
10 taxation and provide instead for the imposition of a state sales and use tax for this purpose;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, this concept merits serious consideration and could serve to eliminate an
13 unpopular tax which is often perceived as unfair, replacing it with a more broad based
14 revenue source and enabling the elimination of inequities in education funding; and

15 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to the General Assembly and the State of Georgia to
16 conduct further study of this subject in meetings to be held around the state.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
18 there is created the House Education Funding Study Committee to be composed of five
19 members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives. The Speaker shall designate a member of the committee as chairperson of
21 the committee. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions
2 and issues mentioned above and related matters and recommend any actions or legislation
3 which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall conduct such
4 meetings at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
5 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
6 of this resolution. The committee shall hold at least one meeting in each of the following
7 communities: Tifton, Savannah, Dalton, and Atlanta. The members of the committee shall
8 receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees
9 but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
10 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
11 appropriated to the House of Representatives. In the event the committee makes a report of
12 its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such
13 report shall be made on or before the convening date of the 2006 regular session of the
14 General Assembly at which time the committee shall stand abolished.